

PETUNIA PLANT NAMED 'SUNBELKUPAPI'

BOTANICAL/COMMERCIAL CLASSIFICATION

Petunia hybrida/Petunia Plant

5 cv. 'Sunbelkupapi'

BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

The Petunia is a very popular plant that is used for
10 flower bedding and potting in the summer season. There
are only a few small-flowered Petunia varieties, such as,
'Sunbelkuopi' (U.S. Plant Patent No. 13,715),
'Sunbelkubu' (U.S. Plant Patent No. 10,279), and
'Sunbelkuho' (U.S. Plant Patent No. 10,278). These
15 Petunias are of the decumbent type and have a very low
plant height, abundant branching, and a high resistance
to heat, rain and disease. Accordingly, this invention is
aimed at obtaining a new Petunia variety having deep
purple-pink petal color with a yellowish-white eye, and
20 very small flowers combined with the above features.

The new variety of Petunia plant according to this
invention originated from the crossing with the Petunia
variety named 'CBPS09' as the female parent, and the
25 Petunia variety named 'CBPS04' as the male parent.

First of all, controlled crossings were conducted
between the Petunia variety 'P49', as the female parent,
and the Petunia variety 'CBP04', as male the parent, and
30 the Petunia variety 'CBP04', as the female parent, and
the Petunia variety 'P38', as the male parent, during
March 1997 at the Omi R&D Center of SUNTORY FLOWERS
Limited, located at 863-1, Aza-Iketani, Omori-cho,
Yokaich, Shiga, Japan. In this connection, the petunia
35 varieties 'P49', 'CBP04', 'P38', 'CBPS09' and 'CBPS04'
are lines bred by us and are not filed in Japan or any
other country. From each crossing, 40 seedlings were

obtained and the Petunia varieties 'CBPS09' and 'CBPS04' were selected from each crossing, in view of their decumbent type growth habit, abundant branching and flower color, at the end of December 1997. Then the
5 controlled crossing between the Petunia variety 'CBPS09', as the female parent, and the Petunia variety 'CBPS04', as the male parent, was conducted in 1998. From this crossing, 400 seedlings were obtained and 10 seedlings were selected, in October 1998, at the Omi R&D Center.
10 The 10 selected plants were propagated by cuttings and then grown in pots in both a greenhouse and in a field at the Omi R&D Center from April to October 2000. The botanical characteristics of the selected plants were examined using the similar varieties 'Sunbelkupi' (U.S. Plant Patent No.10,287) and 'Sunbelochiphi' (U.S. Plant Patent No.10,355) for comparison.
15

As a result, one plant was selected and it was concluded that the selected new Petunia variety is
20 distinguishable from any other variety whose existence is known to us and is uniform and stable in its characteristics. This new variety of Petunia plant was named 'Sunbelkupapi'.
25

The new variety of the present invention can be readily distinguished from the 'Sunbelkupi' through an observation of the flower coloration. The new 'Sunbelkupapi' variety of the present invention forms deep purplish-pink flowers with a yellowish-white eye,
30 the 'Sunbelkupi' variety forms vivid reddish-purple flowers.

In the following description, the color information is in accordance with The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The
35 Royal Horticultural Society, London, England.

The main botanical characteristics of the comparison

variety 'Sunbelkupi' are as follows:

Plant:

Growth habit.- Decumbent.

Plant height.- Approximately 6.0 cm.

5 Spreading area of the plant.- The stem expands to length of approximately 18 cm from the base.

Blooming period.- April to late October in the southern Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not change throughout this period.

10 Stem:

Thickness.- Approximately 1.2 mm.

Pubescence.- Normal to sparse.

Branching.- Abundant with a superior brunching.

Length of internode.- Approximately 1.3 cm.

15 Leaf:

Shape.- Lanceolate.

Length.- Approximately 3.5 cm.

Width.- Approximately 1.0 cm.

Color.- R.H.S. 137B(Dark green).

20 Thickness.- Approximately 0.2 mm.

Pubescence.- Sparse.

Leaf attaching angle to stem.- Slanted upward to horizontal.

Flower:

25 Facing direction.- Slanted upward to horizontal.

Type.- Single.

Shape.- Funnel-shaped, with five-fissures.

Shape of petal tip.- Rounded.

Waving of petal.- Weak.

30 Lobation of petal.- Shallow.

Diameter.- Approximately 2.8 cm.

Color.- Petal: R.H.S. 74A (Vivid reddish-purple).

Bottom color of the corolla throat.- R.H.S 3A (Bright greenish-yellow).

35 Outside color of corolla tube.- R.H.S. 1D (Pale yellow-green) with R.H.S. 152B (Dark olive-green) lines.

Reproductive organs.- 1 normal pistil and 5 normal

stamens.

Peduncle.- Approximately 0.7 mm in thickness, and
Approximately 1.8 cm in length.

5 Physiological and ecological characteristics.- High
resistance to heat, rain, drought and diseases such as
Powdery mildew. The resistance to heat and rain is very
strong.

SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

10

This new variety of Petunia plant 'Sunbelkupapi' has
a decumbent growth habit with abundant branching, and
forms single, very small deep purplish-pink flowers with
a yellowish-white eye in a great profusion of blooms with
15 the entire plant remaining in bloom for a considerable
period of time. The plant has high tolerance to cold and
heat, high resistance to diseases and rain.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

20

The depicted plants had been reproduced by cuttings
and were photographed during June while growing outdoors
in pots at an age of approximately six months at
Yokaichi-shi, Shiga, Japan.

25

FIG. 1 is a photograph of flowers and leaves of the
new variety of Petunia plant 'Sunbelkupapi'.

FIG. 2 is a photograph of flowers of the new variety
of Petunia plant 'Sunbelkupapi'.

30

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The botanical characteristics of the new and
distinct variety of Petunia plant named 'Sunbelkupapi'
35 are as follows were observed during June at Yokaichi-shi,
Shiga, Japan:

Plant:

Growth habit.- Decumbent.

Plant height.- Approximately 6.5 cm.

Spreading area of plant.- The stem extends to length of approximately 30 cm from the base.

5 Blooming period.- April to late October in the southern Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not change throughout this period.

Stem:

Thickness.- Approximately 2.0 mm.

10 Pubescence.- Sparse.

Branching.- Abundant with the superior branching propensity, especially secondary branches are.

Length of internode.- Approximately 1.5cm.

Leaf:

15 Whole shape.- Lanceolate.

Apex shape.-Acute.

Base shape.-Attenuate.

Length.- Approximately 3.2 cm.

Width.- Approximately 1.1 cm.

20 Color.- R.H.S. 137A (Dark olive-green).

Thickness.- Approximately 0.3 mm.

Pubescence.- Sparse.

Leaf attaching angle to stem.- Slanted upward to horizontal.

25 Flower:

Facing direction.- Slanted upward.

Type.- Single.

Shape.- Funnel-shaped, with five-fissures.

Shape of petal tip.- Rounded.

30 Waving of petal.- Weak.

Lobation of petal.- Medium.

Diameter.- Approximately 3.2 cm.

Color.- Petal: R.H.S. 73A (Deep purplish-pink), the eye color is R.H.S.115C (yellowish-white). Bottom color of corolla throat: R.H.S. 7B (Brilliant yellow-green).

35 Outside color of corolla tube: R.H.S. 7D (Light greenish-yellow).

Reproductive organs.- 1 normal pistil and 5 normal stamens. The stigma is club-shaped and R.H.S.145A in coloration. The style is approximately 8 mm in length and R.H.S.145D in coloration. The ovary is R.H.S.145D in coloration. The stamens commonly are of variable length from approximately 5.0 to 8.0 mm. Pollen is formed in a quantity that is typical of *Petunia hybrida* and is near R.H.S.17A in coloration.

Fertility.- Fertile but self-incompatible.

Peduncle.- Approximately 0.9 mm in thickness, and approximately 1.5 cm in length. The texture is smooth.

Seeds.- R.H.S.N186A in coloration, approximately 0.6 mm in diameter, and generally round. The quantity is typical of *Petunia hybrida*.

Physiological and ecological characteristics.- High resistance to heat, rain, drought and diseases such as Powdery mildew. The resistance to heat and rain is very strong.

Blooming:

A bloom commonly lasts approximately 10 days on the plant. Pinching is not necessary to ensure continuous blooming; however, it does tend to enhance bloom production.

This new variety of Petunia plant is most suitable for flower bedding and potting, particularly in hanging pots or in planters, and is excellent for use as a ground cover. Pinching of old blossoms will enhance the formation of new blossoms.